could not be expected to be available from among the men trained at Neyyur whose qualifications were not known to be superior to those of the old Hospital Assistants. The hospital was ill-equipped and out of date in regard to surgical appliances. Only the poorest of the poor were given medicines free and such discrimination was influenced mainly by religious considerations. The prices were fixed by the Hospital authorities. The people of one taluk were thus denied the privilege enjoyed by people everywhere else in the State. Ward charges were levied. The hospital was run on commercial lines so as to be practically self-supporting. Quotations from the Bible were printed on the labels attached to bottles. Cases requiring medical examination in courts had now to be taken to Parassala or Tuckalai. It was rumoured that a building grant was to be given to the Hospital. This would be the death-knell of the people's hopes of having a Government hospital at Kuzhittura. These aspects should be carefully considered and a Government hospital established at Kuzhittura.

A dispensary, if opened at Putukkada, would serve the *pakuthies* of Ezhudesam, Arudesam, Painkulam, Killiyur, Midalam and other places in the southern portion of the taluk.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Raman Pillai, as a result of my visit to Kuzhittura during the floods, I had enquiries made, and as a consequence, the question of shifting the Munsiff's court and the Magistrate's court to another suitable building is under consideration. And possibly also, as a result of that change, the *sattram* may be set free. These are all matters engaging the attention of the Government.

2. With reference to the question of the toll-gate and toll charges, the question of the Municipality taking a share of toll collections has come up before the Government for consideration. I am not aware that the Municipality ever shared the high cost of maintaining that road. Nor am I aware that the Municipality contributed substantially or to any extent in the building of that very expensive bridge. Therefore, I do not think the Municipality is entitled to a share of the toll collections.

3. I have listened to what you have had to say about a hospital for Kuzhittura. Your remarks mainly consist in the disparagement of the existing aided institution at Martandam of which up till now I have never heard anything but high encomiums. Still, what you have said will be noted for consideration.

101. Needs of the Neyyattinkara taluk.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Member, Neyyattinkara taluk, Group I*) said that the people of Neyyattinkara would feel grateful to the Government for the appointment of a special staff for the improvement and restoration of minor irrigation works which by long neglect and owing to encroachments had ceased to be useful. The progress of the work was now hampered by the strained relations between the local P. W. Sub-division officer and the contractors. The contractors were mostly foreigners with no means; work was delayed or was done perfunctorily; and the contractors had petitioned the Government and the Chief Engineer about the delay in checking work done and passing bills for payment. The Member presented a petition from the contractors and requested that an enquiry should be made to find out who was responsible for this sad state of affairs which should not be allowed to continue.

As early as 1064, the Government had spent Rs. 5,000 in connection with the construction of a dam at Aruvikkara in the Maranallur *pakuthi*, with a view to provide water for irrigation. The work was stopped immediately afterwards and had not yet been taken up again though the Government promised to do so in reply to repeated representations. The work should now be taken in hand.

The taluk contained, besides the M. S. Road, 125 miles of village roads and 34 miles of traces. Owing to the inadequacy of the funds allotted for maintenance or to failure to utilise properly the grants made, these communications were in a dangerous and deplorable condition. They were impossible for carts and pedestrians during the rainy season. They were called gravelled roads by courtesy. The maintenance now seemed to consist chiefly in taking the loose sand from the side drains and

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spreading it in the middle of the roads. The expenditure of the allotted funds should be carefully watched, and, if necessary, the rate of maintenance grant should be increased.

The construction of the two small bridges and four culverts required on the Amaravila-Ottasekharamangalam road, the estimates for which were ready, should be carried out without any delay.

One or two culverts had to be constructed on the Utiyankulangara–Kulattur Chavadi road in order to make it useful for cart traffic.

The construction of a bridge on the road to Puvar, an important commercial centre, was necessary. The *junghar* provided did not fulfil the requirements of the place. A wooden bridge on iron pillars would be enough.

The road constructed by the people from the Amaravila-Ottasekharamangalam road to the Amaravila-Vallarada road, 4th mile, should be improved for cart traffic and maintained properly.

The branch road from the 11th mile, 7th furlong, of the M. S. Road to the 12th mile, 1st furlong, of that road should be metalled. There were important offices along that road and wheeled traffic was considerable. The construction of a culvert near the Excise office would also prevent breaches on the road.

The ryots' road from the 18th mile, 3rd furlong, of the M. S. Road to the Parassala-Kollenkod road had been taken under departmental management for maintenance. The absence of a bridge across the Kulattur road near the Ayirayil tank caused great hardship. The bridge would not be very costly, but benefit a number of agriculturists and prevent breaches on the road.

The bathing *ghat* in the Neyyar near Rameswaram should be repaired.

It was hard that the authorities demanded of the ryots, who had to contribute half the cost of minor irrigation works, payment of the whole amount due in one lump instead of in ten years.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, you first dealt with minor irrigation works. I pointed out earlier this day that these minor irrigation works will be taken up in the order of urgency, by the Public Works Department.

2. As to the Aruvikkara irrigation scheme, that was taken up and examined many years ago. It has now got to be re-investigated and brought up-to-date. The Chief Engineer says that he will take up that question.

3. You next deal with the contractor's representations on whose behalf you have spoken and the delay in the execution of works. These are all to be examined.

4. As regards means of communication, so far as I can see, most of the roads are neither dangerous nor deplorable as you say. Some of them certainly leave room for improvement and the Chief Engineer assures me that he will see to their being attended to.

5. Then you take up the question of culverts on the Amaravila-Ottasekharamangalam road. The bridge on the third mile is ready and that on the fifth mile has been provided for in the current year's budget. As soon as this is completed, it will be easy to carry out the remaining works and culverts, and so to complete the line.

6. Then you take up the question of a bridge at Puvar. You say that you are satisfied with a wooden bridge on iron piles. But it is not the bridge that creates difficulties at Puvar. It is the approaches on both sides which are from six to seven feet below the flood level. Hence that necessitates high mud banks for the approach roads. This means high expense. The cost has been estimated at something like half a lakh of rupees. You tell us that the traffic that passes over the road is very considerable. The Chief Engineer's information is that the traffic is not sufficient to justify such a large expenditure. But he has promised to have a fresh traffic survey made, so that we can see whether the traffic is great or small.

7. I will leave the next two points, namely, metalling of the *satram* road and the construction of a bridge on the road which branches off from the 18th mile, 3rd furlong, of the M. S. Road, for further consideration.

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8. Then you deal with repair to bathing *ghats* in the Neyyar near Rameswaram temple. This is a matter which should go to the Maramat Engineer and possibly also to the Devaswom Commissioner. Anyhow, I will have the matter conveyed to the proper authority.

102. Needs of the Neyyattinkara Municipality.

MR. A. S. SANKARANARAYANA PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara*) represented that repairs to the public wells in the Neyyattinkara town should be carried out. The Alumud well required a parapet wall, some masonry work at the bottom and a few minor repairs.

There were no public bathing *ghats* in the Neyyar. An allotment had been made in the budget for 1099 for the construction of a bathing *ghat* at the Arattukadavu leading from the Krishnapuram street; orders should be issued to the Maramat Department to expedite the work. A bathing *ghat* was necessary also at Koravanikadavu.

The Cutcherry Road was now in a neglected condition and should be metalled.

The arrack and toddy shops in the town should be removed to less frequented places elsewhere.

The *satram* and the cutcherry compounds were in an insanitary condition, and the construction of compound walls was absolutely necessary.

The *porambokes* under the control of the Public Works Department and the trees thereon should be transferred to the Municipal Council which could thereby augment its revenues.

The Municipality should be granted a loan of Rs. 1,500 for the construction of a Municipal office. The prayer of the Municipality for the restoration of the old grant should be sanctioned. A grant of Rs. 1,000 per annum alone would enable the Municipal Council to increase the number of street lights and strengthen the staff of sweepers, to bifurcate the sanitary and vital statistics branches, maintain lanes, water the roads, increase the Municipal staff, etc.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sankaranarayana Pillai, the first two items of your representation reveal, according to your own statement, a sad state of affairs for the Neyyattinkara Municipality. The wells as well as bathing *ghats*, according to my information, lie within the Municipal limits and therefore it is the first duty of the Municipality to take up that question and maintain them and not come and ask the Government to do that work.

2. Re-gravelling of the Cutcherry Road has been taken up, and before you came to make this representation, the work is said to have been actually in progress. You could easily have ascertained this fact.

3. As to the matter of location of toddy and arrack shops, the Excise Committee, I think, have recommended that local option is not feasible and that the municipalities can express their views to the Excise Commissioner in respect of the location of shops at suitable places within the municipal limits. Beyond that, I think it is not possible for me to say anything.

4. In the matter of transfer of *poramboke* lands within the municipal areas, I would refer you to my remarks in connection with the representation of the Member for the Padmanabhapuram Municipality this morning.

5. As to the question of a loan to the Municipality, your Municipality came up for a loan without due regard to the rules on the subject. This was pointed out to the Municipality and, after a long time, they have now said that they are prepared to abide by those terms. But the Neyyattinkara Municipality is generally so unsatisfactory that even its whole financial resources are considered hardly sufficient as adequate security for a loan from the Government. Therefore the question of a loan to the Municipality requires very careful examination.

6. The other points will receive consideration in due course.

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